

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 187973
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JCS WASHDC 0621
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 187973

TAGS: MILI, NATO, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO

SUBJECT: SOVIET SHIP VIOLATIONS OF NORWEGIAN WATERS

REF: (A) OSLO 3484; (B) OSLO 3392; (C) STATE 174869;
(D) OSLO 3245; (E) OSLO 3503; (F) OSLO 3537 (NOTALS)

1. THE RECENT SERIES OF SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS CLEARLY REPRESENTS A DELIBERATE PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR.

2. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE COINCIDENCE OF TIMING BETWEEN THESE INCIDENTS AND THE BEGINNING OF STANAVFORLANT EXERCISES IN NORTHERN WATERS ON JULY 3. WHILE STANAVFORLANT SHIPS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN OPERATING SOUTH AND WEST OF TROMSO, FROM JULY 25 THROUGH 28 THEY WILL BE EXERCISING IN THE WATERS NORTH OF TROMSO. A GERMAN DESTROYER, THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, IS INVOLVED IN THIS EXERCISE.

3. THUS WHILE THE SOVIET TACTIC COULD BE DESIGNED TO COW THE NORWEGIANS IN THE UPCOMING USSR-NORWEGIAN BILATERALS ON THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PROTECTIVE ZONE, THE

SOVIETS MAY BE SIGNALING TO THE NORWEGIANS THAT NATO FLEET ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN WATERS IS UNDESIRABLE AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF A GERMAN VESSEL IN THESE EXERCISES IS UNWELCOME. THE USE OF A GDR VESSEL (OSLO'S 3537) REINFORCES THIS VIEW.

4. THE SIGNAL COULD REFLECT THE FAMILIAR SOVIET THEME THAT MATTERS INVOLVING THE SVALBARD AND THE NORTHERN WATERS ARE BEST SOLVED BILATERALLY BETWEEN THE USSR AND NORWAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 187973

AND THAT NATO AND ALLIANCE INPUTS MAY MAKE THE SOVIET POSITION IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS HARDER.

5. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT NORTHERN WEDDING 78, A LARGE-SCALE NATO NAVAL LIVE EXERCISE, INCLUDES AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN NORWAY. THIS EXERCISE INCLUDES SUBSTANTIAL GERMAN NAVAL PARTICIPATION.

6. THE NORWEGIAN REACTION TO THESE PROBES MAY WELL BE USED BY MOSCOW TO GAUGE OSLO'S WILL AND ABILITY TO STAND UP TO SOVIET PRESSURE. BEARING IN MIND THE NORWEGIAN RESPONSE TO SOVIET SIGNALS ON GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN LAND EXERCISES IN NORWAY, WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO ASSURE THAT THE NORWEGIAN RESPONSE IN THIS INSTANCE IS CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

7. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THIS ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED IN NATO AND FOR ALL CONCERNED ALLIANCE MEMBERS TO AGREE ON A COMMON ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE UP TO AS WELL AS ON A DESIRABLE RESPONSE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY SHOULD SHARE THE

HYPOTHESIS IN PARAS 2-4 WITH THE NORWEGIANS AND GIVE OUR VIEW THAT A NATO DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE WELCOME. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED BY PHONE FROM OSLO THAT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE BRIEFING NATO ALLIES ON THESE INCIDENTS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 PROBABLY AT THE PERM-REPS LUNCHEON. WE WELCOME THIS. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND TO ASSURE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE NORWEGIAN POSITION, YOU SHOULD ALSO ASK THE NORWEGIANS WHETHER THEY WOULD CONSIDER PLACING THIS ITEM ON THE NAC AGENDA.

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM EMBASSIES MOSCOW, BONN, LONDON AND USNATO ABOUT BOTH THE ANALYSIS AND THE STRATEGY DESCRIBED ABOVE. VANCE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 187973

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